New drug for brain stroke patients

4130. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New drug given within three hours can help brain stroke patients", which appeared in the *Asian Age*, dated the 23rd March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the new drug available on large scale in Government hospitals so that affected patients are in a position to avail the same easily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The new drug Tissue Plasminogen Activator (TPA) is a naturally occurring enzyme derived from DNA technology. This new drug is the first proven effective treatment for acute ischamic stroke if given within 3 hours of onset of stroke as it significantly improves long-term outcome in functional disability and neurologic scales. This drug favourably alters the course of disease and improves patient's condition. All India Institute of Medical Sciences has recently started this form of therapy. So far five patients have been treated with good results. The cost of the drug being very-high its large scale use in Government Hospitals in near future is unlikely.

WHO report on Non-Communicable Diseases

4131. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by World Health Organisation according to which non-communicable diseases are emerging as major challenges in large part of the world including India due to a change in life-style, reduced physical activities, dietic habits and use of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to give the report of the WHO widest possible publicity to create a sense of health awareness among our people by adopting disease prevention and health promoting measures?